

Common Scientific Platforms - Specific procedure for using the platforms

(updated on September 14th, 2020)

When a user needs to use an instrument on a platform, the user must reserve the instrument on the platform management portal website on plateformes-crchusj.ca. Upon arrival in a platform or for the use of the common instruments (shared equipment platform, you must disinfect your hands or gloves and the instrument before use. Please refer to this document for details on the disinfection method specific to each instruments and also for the specifics of each platform. For any questions concerning the common scientific platforms, please contact Ms. Valérie Villeneuve, manager of common scientific platforms at valerie.villeneuve@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca or extension 2786.

Cytometry Platform :

- **A maximum of 6 people at any time in the platform** will be accepted. A maximum of two people can stay in rooms 6.17.301 and 6.17.302.
- Wearing a facemask will be mandatory in the Flow cytometry facility.
- Patient specimens (blood, PBMC etc.) will be considered as potentially infectious (COVID-19 positive) and must be fixed before FACS acquisition.
 - Fixation with 4%PFA for 30min at RT.
- Projects requiring analysis of unfixed samples, a justification must be provided and will be subject to approval.
- Approved projects for analysis of unfixed samples must follow a specific procedure:
 - Samples analysis must be done on the FACS Fortessa HTS only.
 - Samples analysis must be done in 96 or 384 well plate to limit the generation of aerosol and contain them in the HTS module during the acquisition.
- Measures currently in place must be maintained:
 - Use of clean gloves for handling the instruments.
 - Decontamination of work surfaces and equipment with 70% ethanol before and after use.

Contact person : Ms. Ines Boufaied, manager of the cytometry platform, at ines.boufaied@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca or extension 4440

Microscopy Platform, PIM :

Occupancy limitations:

- PIM instruments must be reserved on the online booking portal at least 24 hours before usage.
- Only users with a reservation are allowed in the platform rooms. Visitors can accompany users into the PIM only if occupancy limits and distancing are observed.
- Note the occupancy restrictions for individual rooms/areas of the PIM:
 - o PIM entry: max. 2
 - o 3.17.300A (SP8, SD-TIRF, DMI8-3): max. 2, if distanced
 - o 3.17.300 (widefield microscopes, analysis workstations): max. 4, if distanced
 - o 3.17.301 (SP8-STED, SP8-DLS): max. 2
 - o 3.17.302 (SP8-multiphoton): max. 2
 - o 3.17.308 (AxioScan), max. 2
- An additional person can come into the rooms if they stay less than 15 minutes and observe physical distancing.

Personal protective equipment:

- Masks are required. Do not remove masks, even if alone in a room.
- Wear personal safety goggles or glasses for eye protection if using the oculars. As an alternative, put plastic wrap on the oculars and discard at the end of the session.

Surface disinfection:

- Upon entering the PIM lab, or immediately before entering scanner room, wash hands with soap and warm water or disinfect with the supplied spray, or disinfect gloves with 70% ethanol. Wash or disinfect hands or gloves again at the end of your session, and during the session as needed.
- DO NOT use disinfectant wipes (chlorine, peroxide) on any parts of the microscopes.
- To create surfaces that can be disinfected, cover microscope or computer interaction surfaces (e.g. touchscreens, keyboards, computer mice) with protective plastic wrap. Remove and discard plastic at the end of the session if no longer usable. Disinfect plastic film with a paper towel with 70% ethanol at the beginning and end of the session, and as needed.
- Surfaces that can't easily be covered with plastic wrap (focus knobs, stage controller) should only be touched with freshly washed or disinfected hands.
- DO NOT use paper towels with 70% ethanol on optical surfaces.

Contact: Ms. Elke Küster-Schöck, PIM manager at elke.kuster@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca or at extension 5231

Common instruments platform (Self-service):

- Two people per primary support room are accepted, although additional people may be allowed in these rooms only for short periods (*e.g.* 5-10 minutes) while respecting physical distancing as much as possible. This directive concerns in particular rooms 309 of block 17 where there are more than two common instruments.
- It is allowed to use clean gloves to touch the shared instruments and mandatory to disinfect work surfaces covered with plastic wrap before and after use with 70% ethanol or chlorine wipes (keyboards, mouse, and the instrument).
- **Warning!** : Never disinfect touch screens on instruments, computer screens, cameras or microscope opticals with any product. Use gloves when using qPCR LightCycler for example. If needed, do not hesitate to speak with the reference people.
- The instruments that will be used for approved COVID-19 projects will be identified for this purpose. Use only those instruments. However, if your project requires any other instrument, please mention this to the resource people. Some centrifuges and rotors will be exclusively reserved for the COVID-19 research projects and will be communicate to you soon via the Platform Management Portal.

Contact people: Ms. Safaa Jaoui, research agent at safaa.jaoui@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca or extension 4525 and Ms. Valérie Villeneuve, manager of common scientific platforms at valerie.villeneuve@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca or extension 2786.

Humanized mice platform

- Please sanitize all instruments before and after use
- Note that the current animal facility guidelines needs to be respected for access and use of the facility
- When you need mice, please contact us by email at liyuanyi018@gmail.com or kathie.beland@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca
- Note that the production of BLT mice is postponed until further notice.

Contact person : Ms. Kathie Béland, manager of the humanized mice platform at kathie.beland@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca or at extension 5888.

Cellular reprogramming platform and gene editing

- To submit your samples, please contact the platform managers before moving to the platform room. Please be sure to appropriately handle the samples (tubes contained in a sealed bag) and to wear your mask and gloves all the time during you interactions with the manager.
- To receive your samples once ready or any other material from the platform (i.e. frozen cells vials), please do not move to the platform room without having contacted the platform managers to planify an appointment.
- For the training in iPSC basic culture techniques, only one person can be trained at a time by the manager. A training request must be sent by e-mail to the manager of the platform in order to set a time slot at which the person concerned must appear alone dressed with his lab coat and mask. Wearing a mask is then mandatory for the entire duration of the training.

Contact people : Ms. Basma Benabdallah, manager of the cellular reprogramming platform at basma.benabdallah@gmail.com or at extension 6531 and Mr. Romain Gioia, manager of the Gene editing platform at romaingioia1@gmail.com or at extension 4158.

Biobanks (BQPCG and RaPiD)

- For the reception of samples, you will have to communicate with the biobank and then present yourself to deposit the samples. The samples must be transported in biohazard transport bags and must come with a sample request.
- Please make sure to follow public health directives (wearing a mask, social distancing, hand hygiene) at all times during your interactions with the biobank personnel.

Contact people :

- **Biobank BQPCG :** Mr. Thomas Sontag, manager of the biobank at thomas.sontag@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca or oncoped.hsj@gmail.com and extension 3625 or pager at 514-415-2137.
- **RaPiD Centralized biobank:** Ms. Jocelyne Ayotte, Manager of the RaPiD Biobank at jocelyne.ayotte@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca or extension 3774 and Mr. Annie S. Bilodeau, specialized technician at annie.bilodeau@recherche-ste-justine.qc.ca or extension 2785.